

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 EURE-00 AID-20

CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 OPIC-12 SPC-03 TRSE-00 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01

OMB-01 NSC-10 SS-15 STR-08 DRC-01 /165 W

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0651

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY/PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVICK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

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PASS COMMERCE FOR BODNER AND COOK.

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EIND, OECD

SUBJECT: MEETING OF GROUP OF EXPERTS ON FOOTWEAR AND LEATHER RELATED INDUSTRIES, SEPT. 18, 1973

1. GROUP OF EXPERTS AGREED TO RECOMMEND TO OECD INDUSTRY COMMITTEE THAT IT CREATE AND AD HOC WORKING PARTY TO UNDERTAKE A ONE-YEAR STUDY OF THE FOOTWEAR AND LEATHER RELATED INDUSTRIES. STUDY WOULD BE REASONABLY THOROUGH, COVERING PRODUCTION AND TRADE AND INCLUDING MATERIAL ON NON-OECD COUNTRIES. INFORMATION WOULD BE SOUGHT FROM VARIOUS OECD COMMITTEES AND FROM OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, AS WELL AS FROM OECD MEMBER COUNTRIES. REPORT OF GROUP WILL BE CIRCULATED SHORTLY AND DECISION ON ITS RECOMMENDATION WILL BE TAKEN AT NOVEMBER 15-16 MEETING OF INDUSTRY COMMITTEE.

2. CANADA, WHICH HAD INITIATED PROPOSAL, CHAIRED MEETING IN OBJECTIVE MANNER. CANADIAN DEL INDICATED STRONG INTEREST IN INDUSTRY STRUCTURE AND GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE MEASURES WHILE NOTING THAT PROPOSAL WAS OUTGROWTH OF TRADE PROBLEM. CANADA ALSO EXPRESSED INTEREST IN INFORMATION ON NEW TECHNOLOGY, NEW MATERIAL AND STYLING.

3. US DEL (ASCHER) DESCRIBED CURRENT STATUS OF DOMESTIC FOOTWEAR INDUSTRY AND MADE POINTS IN REFAIR. JAPANESE DEL UNENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT STUDY BUT AGREED TO RECOMMENDATION OF GROUP ON CONDITION THAT MINUTES OF MEETING REFLECT JAPAN'S DESIRE THAT STUDY NOT BE DIRECTED TOWARD DEVELOPING GENERAL SOLUTIONS TO PROBLEMS OF FOOTWEAR INDUSTRIES OF OECD MEMBERS OR "BINDING RECOMMENDATIONS", A POINT MADE EARLIER BY US DEL.

4. SPAIN AND SEVERAL OTHER DELEGATIONS FELT AVAILABILITY OF RAW MATERIALS WAS KEY CONSIDERATION. AUSTRALIAN DEL SHOWED KEEN INTEREST IN STUDY AND ITS CONTENT. UK, WHICH HAD INDICATED OPPOSITION TO STUDY IN REPLY TO PRELIMINARY QUESTIONNAIRE, CHOSE NOT TO BE REPRESENTED AT MEETING. COUNTRIES ATTENDING WERE AUSTRALIA, AUSTRIA, BELGIUM, UNCLASSIFIED

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CANADA, FRANCE, GERMANY, ITALY, JAPAN, PORTUGAL, SPAIN, SWEDEN, SWITZERLAND, TURKEY AND THE US.BROWN

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